

American Opinion

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Permanent file copy
Do not remove.

AMERICAN OPINION SUMMARY

No. 98

October 11, 1962

CUBA

The Administration plan to exclude from U.S. ports all ships transporting war materials to Cuba continues to win endorsements from supporters and from a number of critics of prevailing U.S. Cuban policy.

"While not as spectacular or as foolhardy as plans urged by extremists of the Goldwater stripe," declares the Louisville Courier-Journal, "it is a tough program, aimed not only at the Red-bloc nations, but at allies who have refused to consider Castro a menace to the hemisphere and have insisted on doing business with him." The Christian Science Monitor welcomes reports that the "boycott" will start with a crackdown on U.S. ships sailing under foreign flags. "Until this is done," it suggests, "other countries will be justified in saying the U.S. does not practice what it preaches."

Applauding "the 'firming up' by the President," John S. Knight asserts that "the people will give their willing support" to an Administration that will act "in the self-interest of our own country, and stop worrying about what the rest of the world will think." To Sen. Keating (R-N.Y.), the proposed steps are "forceful and commendable. It is entirely possible also that they may set an example for joint hemisphere action and exercise some persuasion on our NATO allies." These are "tough restrictions," that will "take the profit out of carrying anything for Castro," the Philadelphia Bulletin comments.

Strongly critical of U.S. "inaction" on Cuba, the New York Mirror feels that "at long last, President Kennedy has taken an important step forward." But the plan should also include closing U.S. ports to the companies involved as well as their shipping, the Mirror urges; and if Americans are involved, "their names should be published."

Some fear the "gesture" may "do little good." It could "stir up great resentment among shipping nations," cautions Erwin D. Canham. "We have taken a good first step," contends Sen. Stennis (D-Miss.); "however, more drastic and more urgent and more positive steps are necessary before we can achieve needed results" (somewhat similarly, Baker Marsh in Chicago News).

OFFICIAL USE ONLY